

JAN 14 1964

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700560017-0

1210. Laplace's

C/A 8-02

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CIA Needs Watchdog Committee
EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 14, 1964

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, day by day the evidence mounts that a congressional watchdog committee on the Central Intelligence Agency is needed; and day by day public support grows for the creation of such a committee.

Created as a central agency to gather and analyze intelligence information, the CIA has, all too often, been guilty of formulating foreign policy.

Recently, former President Truman, under whom the CIA was first organized, expressed his belief that the CIA had strayed off course and should be made to adhere to the original purpose for which it was created.

I could not agree more. For the reasons set forth by President Truman and other constructive critics of the CIA, I have introduced legislation into every Congress since 1953 calling for the creation of a Joint Congressional Committee on the CIA.

My bill, House Concurrent Resolution 2, currently is pending before the House Rules Committee. I urge my colleagues on that committee to consider this resolution and companion bills as soon as possible.

Further, under permission granted, I include an editorial from the January 4 issue of the Milwaukee Journal calling on Congress to approve a committee such as that proposed in House Concurrent Resolution 2.

TRUMAN: CIA OFF TRACK

Former President Truman has added his doubts to many others about the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. And he speaks with authority, for the CIA was organized during his presidency to serve the needs of his office.

As organized, Truman says, the CIA was to bring together intelligence information available to all branches of Government, valuate and interpret it for the President. It was never meant, Truman says, to "be injected into peacetime cloak and dagger operations." It was never meant to make policy.

CIA activities have frequently been embarrassing to this country in the last decade. In numerous instances the Agency actually has worked counter to our foreign policy. Certainly we need no agency to work to subvert foreign governments—yet the record indicates that the CIA has done that very thing.

Truman is quick to acknowledge the patriotism and the dedication of CIA officials. He just thinks they have been off the track. The Agency, he says, should return to its basic job of gathering and assessing intelligence for the use of the policymakers.

In connection with this, the proposal that the CIA be audited by a special committee of Congress, just as the Atomic Energy Commission is, deserves congressional approval. The CIA is too much a law unto itself. For its own good, and the country's, it should be curbed and put under constant check.